

Immunization Newsletter

North Dakota Department of Health

Division of Disease Control

Summer 2003

Influenza News

For the 2003-2004 influenza season, there has been an expansion in the distribution of the flu vaccine through the Vaccines For Children Program (VFC). On June 20, 2002, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) adopted a resolution expanding the group of children eligible for influenza vaccine coverage under the VFC program. The ACIP extended VFC coverage for influenza vaccine to all VFC-eligible children age 6 months to 23 months and VFC children age 2 to 18 who are household contacts of children younger than 6 months. The coverage was expanded because children younger than 23 months are at an increased risk of influenza. The resolution went into effect March 1, 2003.

Since North Dakota is a universal state, all children (VFC and non-VFC) who are age 6 months to 23 months, will be eligible to receive influenza vaccine. Also, all children (VFC and non-VFC) younger than 18 who are contacts of infants younger than 6 months or contacts of high-risk children will be able to receive the influenza vaccine. As in the past, all high-risk children younger than 18 with the following conditions

will be eligible for Prevention Partnership Vaccine:

- Children and adolescents who have chronic disorders of the pulmonary or cardiovascular systems, including asthma.
- Children and adolescents who have required regular medical follow-up or hospitalization during the preceding year due to chronic metabolic diseases (including diabetes mellitus), renal dysfunction, hemoglobinopathies or immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or HIV).
- Children and adolescents who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy and therefore might be at risk for developing Reye's syndrome after influenza.
- Adolescent females who will be in the second or third trimester of pregnancy during the influenza season.
- Children and adolescents who are residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities that house people of any age who have chronic medical conditions.
- Children and adolescents who are household members of people in high-

risk groups (e.g. the elderly, transplant recipients and people with HIV).

***Consult the Vaccine Coverage Table provided in the Prevention Partnership agreement for questions about coverage of other vaccines.**

CME Symposium Addresses Prevention of Influenza Virus Infections Among Children

Continuing medical education credit is available by completing an online presentation addressing the prevention of influenza virus infection among children. Two hours of free CME credit may be received by logging onto www.pediatricfluCME.com. The activity is sponsored by the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine and is directed towards pediatricians, infectious disease physicians and others interested in the role of preventing influenza in children. The presentation will discuss how to increase immunization rates for high-risk children and healthy children younger than 2. Currently, only 10 percent to 30 percent of high-risk children receive the vaccine each year. As a Prevention Partnership Member, the North Dakota Immunization Program encourages all providers to watch this presentation.

Sentinel Providers Needed



Who: Influenza Sentinel Provider

What:

- An influenza sentinel provider conducts surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) in collaboration with the North Dakota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Most providers report that it takes them **less than 30 minutes a week** to compile and report their data.
- Sentinel providers can submit specimens from a subset of patients for virus isolation **free of charge**.
- Providers of any specialty in any type of practice are eligible to be influenza sentinel providers.

Why: Monitor the impact of influenza in your community and North Dakota

When: October 2003 through May 2004

For more information: Contact Melissa Casteel, influenza surveillance coordinator, at 800.472.2180 or mcasteel@state.nd.us.

Free Booklet on Increasing Influenza Immunization Rates in Infants and Children

Currently, the free booklet *Increasing Influenza Immunization Rates in Infants and Children* is available from the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. The booklet discusses strategies to help pediatric and family practices implement immunization recommendations. Contact the North Dakota Immunization Program at 800.472.2180 if you are interested in receiving one of these booklets.

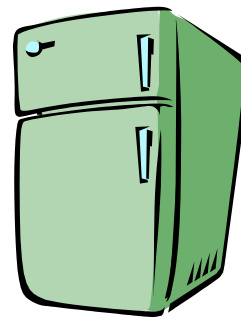
Vaccine Storage & Handling

Storage and handling of vaccines are two important issues that sometimes cause some confusion.

Vaccine should not be drawn up prior to administration. This may cause mistakes in administration. If vaccines are drawn up prior to administration, the vaccine should not be given if it is in the syringe for more than eight hours. Varicella must be administered within 30 minutes after reconstitution.

All vaccines have an expiration date. When vaccines are received, it is important to place the vaccines that expire last in the back of the refrigerator. Vaccines can be used until the day of expiration. There is no grace period after that. Assume that the vaccine is no longer viable and discard properly. Influenza vaccine expires the month of June following the influenza season. Even if the upcoming influenza vaccine has the same strains as last year, last year's vaccine should never be used.

All vaccines must be stored in a refrigerator, **except for Varicella vaccine**. Varicella vaccine must be stored in the freezer at a temperature lower than 5° F. Refrigerator temperatures should be 35 to 46° F. Vaccine diluents can be stored at room temperature.



Temperatures should be checked twice a day and recorded on a temperature log. (A temperature log is available by calling the North Dakota Immunization Program at 800.472.2180.) Also, a continuous temperature monitor should be placed in the refrigerator. The wheels of the monitor should be changed weekly. **Both the wheels and the temperature logs must be sent to the Department of Health once a month.**

If any problems occur with vaccine storage, the North Dakota Department of Health Immunization Program should be notified as soon as possible at 800.472.2180. For other questions about vaccine storage and handling, consult the ACIP Recommendations for Handling and Storage of Selected Biologicals on the National Immunization Program website at <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/>.



PEDIARIX™ News

PEDIARIX™ has been available in North Dakota since June 1st. Since then, there have been many questions about the use of PEDIARIX™. The following is a summary that hopefully will help resolve many of those questions.

PEDIARIX™ is recommended for use at 2, 4 and 6 months. It is not licensed to be used as the fourth or fifth dose of DTaP. PEDIARIX™ should not be used in infants younger than 6 weeks. This means that PEDIARIX™ cannot be used for the birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine. A single dose of hepatitis B vaccine should be given at birth, followed by the three doses of PEDIARIX™ at 2, 4 and 6 months. According to the ACIP, it is safe to give four doses of hepatitis B vaccine. PEDIARIX™ is not approved for use in children older than 7 because of the pertussis component in the

vaccine. Information about PEDIARIX™ is available at www.pediarix.com or by calling the North Dakota Immunization Program at 800.472.2180.

Varicella News

Varicella vaccine will not be required for the 2003-2004 school year. A rules hearing about varicella vaccine requirements will be held in room 206 of the North Dakota Department of Health at 1:00 p.m. on September 3. It is expected that varicella vaccine will be required for school entry for the 2004-2005 school year. A date has yet to be set for day care requirements, although it will likely become effective January 1, 2004. Children who already have had chicken pox disease will be exempt from receiving the vaccine.

Every year, one in 60,000 people with chicken pox disease die. Hospitalization occurs in three cases per 1,000 people. These deaths and hospitalizations do not have to occur. The North Dakota Department of Health urges you to encourage susceptible individuals to get vaccinated.



Congratulations to the following providers for immunization rates over 85% for the 4-3-1-3-3 series.

- First District Health Unit – McLean County
- Lake Region District Health Unit – Ramsey County
- Ransom County Health Department
- Steele County Health Department
- McIntosh District Health Unit
- Rolette County Public Health Department
- Family Health Care Center
- Mid-Dakota Clinic – Kirkwood
- Washburn Family Clinic
- Medcenter One Jamestown Clinic

Do you want to know what your clinic's immunization rates are? Run a *Compliance Survey* from the *Reports* section on the registry.

Questions & Answers



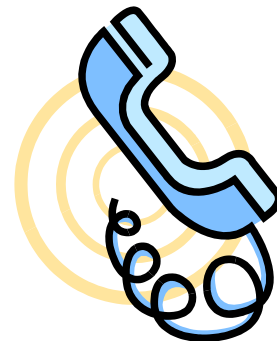
1. What are the minimum intervals and minimum ages for each dose of PEDIARIX™?
 - A. The minimum age and interval for each dose is equal to the longest interval or oldest age recommended for each individual component for that dose.

Dose	Minimum Age	Minimum Interval from Previous Dose
1	6 weeks	N/A
2	10 weeks	4 weeks
3	6 months	8 weeks

2. Can a hepatitis B birth dose be given to a low birth-weight baby?
 - A. If the mother is hepatitis B positive, a birth dose should be given to a low birth-weight baby. If mother is not hepatitis B positive and the child weighs less than 2,000 grams, than the birth dose may be deferred for one month.
3. If a child who comes into the clinic is ill, can I still vaccinate the child?
 - A. If the child has a mild illness, it is important to vaccinate. A mild illness would be a low-grade fever, an upper respiratory infection, an ear infection or mild diarrhea. These illnesses will not affect the vaccination. In fact, when children visit the doctor because of illness, it is a good time to check their immunization records and to get them immunized if needed.
4. When a child with no documentation of immunizations moves to North Dakota from a different state, does the child need to have his/her shots repeated if the mother knows that the child's immunizations are up to date?
 - A. Check to see if the child is from a state that has a registry. If the parent knows the clinic where the child received vaccinations, try calling the clinic first. If documentation cannot be found, all immunizations must be repeated. Contact the North Dakota Department of Health for assistance at 1.800.472.2180.

Do you have questions?

Please call the North Dakota
Immunization Program at
800.472.2180 with any vaccine
or immunization questions.



2003-2004 Prevention Partnership Enrollment

Prevention Partnership enrollment packets were sent out July 1, 2003. The enrollment forms were due back to the North Dakota Immunization Program by Aug. 5, 2003. In order to receive vaccine, all forms must be signed and sent to the NDDoH. A few changes have been made to the provider requirements this year.

- Providers are required to monitor vaccine storage temperatures twice a day and record them on a temperature log. This log is to be sent to the NDDoH once a month.
- Wheels from the continuous temperature monitors must be sent to the NDDoH once a month.
- Providers are required to send a *Monthly Doses Administered and Inventory Report* to the North Dakota Immunization Program. Vaccine may not be ordered until this report is received by NDDoH.

The packet also contains new vaccine transfer and return forms, as well as a new temperature log. These items also will be available on our website. Make sure to read through the enrollment packet and call the North Dakota Immunization Program at 800.472.2180 if you have any questions.

The North Dakota Immunization Program encourages all Prevention Partnership Providers to use the NDIIS registry. Registries have been shown to increase immunization rates. Also, the Immunization Program utilizes the registry to track the use of vaccine, which is required to receive funds from the VFC program.



How Do You Run a Doses Administered Report?

The North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS) allows providers to run many different types of reports. One of the new requirements for the Prevention Partnership Enrollment is to send in a *Monthly Doses Administered Report*

once a month. The registry will make this task an easy one.

Directions:

- Once in NDIIS, select the *Reports* tab from the main menu.

- When in *Reports*, select the *New Requests* tab to run a new report.
- In the *Report* drop-down box, select *Doses Administered*.
- Then enter your selection criteria.
- In order to run a report for one month, the *begin date* should be the first day of the month and the *end date* should be the last day of the month.
- The *VFC type* allows the provider to Select for certain clients. For the monthly report, *All Clients* should be selected.
- The *Vaccine Series* box allows the provider to select which vaccine is included in the report. Only six vaccines may be run at a time. Additional vaccines may be found by clicking on the small box next to the *Vaccine Series* box. Vaccines may be added or removed from the report using this box.
- After completing all of the selection criteria, the report is ready to run by clicking on the *Run Now* button.
- The report will now be located in the *Saved Reports* section.
- The *Refresh* button will need to be selected until the status of the report says *completed*.
- The Doses Administered Report is now completed. To read or print the report, select the saved report you want.

The *Help* button in NDIIS has further instructions about how to run many different reports, including a Doses Administered Report. Just click on *Contents* and then *Reports*.



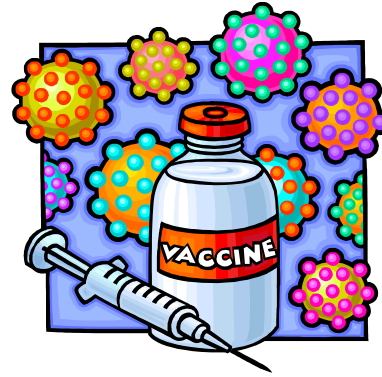
Immunization Update Satellite Broadcast

An Immunization Update Satellite Broadcast from the CDC will be held August 21 from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. This broadcast provides an update highlighting current and late-breaking immunization issues for immunization providers. The goal of the Immunization Update is to improve immunization rates. To register for this course, visit the CDC/ATSDR Training and Continuing Education Online System at <http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/phtnonline>. After viewing the online presentation, 2.5 hours of continuing education credit will be available. Site registration began June 30 and individual registration began July 24.



Upcoming Events:

- National Immunization Awareness Month – **August**
- Prevention Partnership Enrollment due – **August 1**
- Influenza Vaccine may be ordered from NDDoH – **August 1**
- Satellite Broadcast: Immunization Update 2003 – **August 21 from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**
- Rules hearing on varicella vaccine requirements held in room 206 of the NDDoH – **September 3 at 1:00 p.m.**
- National Adult Immunization Awareness Month – **October**



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